

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

November 14, 2022

Hybrid In Person and Zoom

Attendees

In Person:

Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Frans Kuypers	KJ6IUV
Annette McCoubry	KJ6SWK
Tom Fattaruso	KN6BUY
Hal Graboske	KK6NDF
Ednalee Warnecke	KN6VTY
James Marks	KN6VTC

via Zoom:

Blake Yeaman	KN6CMP
Diane Richwine	KK6RED
David Swanson	KJ6AAT
Martha Richards	K6ELO
Don Simon	NI6A
Karen Leong Fenton	KK6ZPM
Jay Fenton	KJ6WSS
Michael Gold	AJ6RZ
Lorraine Schnurr	KN6CRT

Agenda:

Call to order/logistics

- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes
- Approval of Agenda
- Treasurer's report

New business

- Input on future agenda items

Old business

- MOU with EC-K Fire Dept (Response from new Chief)

- Interested in a Standard Operating Guide (SOG) for emergency communication to include KARO ECHO
- Status report from nomination committee for 2023 officers (vote in Dec.)
- QSL card
 - Thanks to Rob K6RJM for creating one
 - Select someone to follow-up with printing
- Revisit ARES affiliation

Outreach/PR/web

Tech./Infrastructure

- Equipment maintenance team report
 - Removed radio gear and furniture from radio room of Kensington Fire Station (FS65) to be stored for about 2 years during retrofit construction
- New antenna/s and patch box/s
 - Gear in hand for three installs
 - Canyon Trail Clubhouse
 - Castro Clubhouse
 - Kensington Community Center
 - Contacted Public Works, need to follow-up

Elmering

- requests to elmer@karoecho.net

Neighborhood nets and Comm. hubs

- 1st Wed., reports

Training and Operations

- Review of levels of skills checklists
- Digital net update
 - Participation growing

Adjourn

The meeting was called to order.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the October membership meeting minutes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

Treasurer's report:

- There was 1 new paid member this month.
- Dues for 2023 are to be paid by the end of January.
- If a new member pays dues at the end of this year the dues will apply to next year.
- Dues paid around June may be prorated at half the yearly dues amount.

Business session

MOU

- Howdy KE6BEE sent our MOU draft to the new fire chief.
- The new fire chief finally responded that he would prefer a Standard Operating Guide written which would include KARO-ECHO instead of the MOU.
- The fire department is very busy and we should not overwhelm them with our requests. They may not understand yet the service we can provide.
- We don't know when the next step in the MOU process will happen.

Nominations

- A vote will be taken at the December membership meeting to choose or approve the nominees for next year's officers.

QSL card

- Rob K6RJM designed a QSL card and made changes to it according to suggestions made by others.
- Frans KJ6IUV will look into having the cards printed. There may be a minimum quantity for a printing job.
- A suggestion was made to have some of the cards printed as QSL cards with QSO information and other cards printed as a plain postcard which could be used for other purposes.

ARES

- ARES membership is completely voluntary.
- Submitting an ARES application will be a helpful way to keep records of operators' experience.
- An ARES "level 1" application will register that we are licenced ham operators available to help in an emergency.
- Will ARES levels higher than "1" be recognised in an emergency?.
- We may not need 50% of KE members to be ARES members as we first thought.

Technical/Infrastructure

- Kensington FS65
 - Radio equipment from Kensington Fire Station 65 was removed and stored at KN6BUY for the time period of the station building renovation.
 - A list of the equipment has been posted on the KE Google Docs location.
 - 2 lead-acid batteries had not been maintained for some time and are apparently no longer usable. They will be taken to recycling.
- Antennas/patchboxes

- Equipment for more antenna and patchbox installations has been purchased. Contact with Bill Driscoll has been attempted but there has been no response yet.
- Instead of installing radios at clubhouses of fire stations, a possibly more practical approach might be to install only antennas and patchboxes so an operator could use his/her own radio equipment.

Elmering

- We need a volunteer to check the radio(s), antenna(s), and patchbox at the Albany Community Center.

Training

- Self Assessment Form
 - Several months ago Don NI6A and Howdy KE6BEE started work on a self assessment form, similar to documentation for ARES levels, and with some relation to the National RACES form,.
 - It is still a draft and will benefit from other members' feedback.
 - The form is intended to be a tool for our own organization's use.
- In an emergency situation, at this point we don't know whether we will be independent volunteers or part of an organized structure.
- If members would like to enroll in FEMA classes, one possibility for finding out details about available classes might be from information on the ARRL website.

Digital Net

- For members interested in digital modes, practice sessions have been continuing on Monday (sometimes Wednesday) evenings.
- Rob K6RJM has added a 9600 baud packet server to his installation
- Fldigi is still the basis of most of our digital message practice because it is a mode that most operators could make use of.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting.